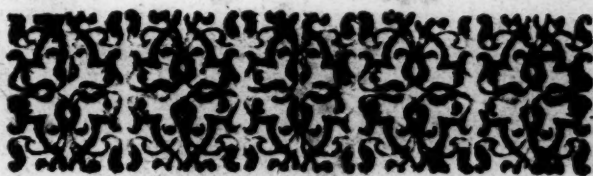


**A most straunge and
wounderfull accident, happened at
*Weersburch by Franckford, by a most
fearefull Earthquake and daknesse, with
a mightie tempest of Thunder
and Lightning.***

**Also a most dreadfull Embassage,
vnto the Gouvernour of that Cittie, by three
*straunge Children which were found in a Wood,
threatning destruction to that
Countrie, and to all
Christendome.***

*First it was published in Print at Franckford, next at
Cullen upon Rhyne, and last at Nim-
weghen. And now Translated
out of Dutch into English,
by T. C.*



L O N D O N

**Printed by William Barley, and are to bee sold at his
shop in Gracious streete. 1600.**

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A most straunge and wonderfull accident, happened at *Weersburch*, by *Franchford*, by a most fearefull Earthquake and darknesse, with a mightie tempest of Thunder and lightning. And of a dreadfull Embassage, vittered to the Gouvernour of that Cittie: by three straunge Children, which were found in a wood, threatening destruction to that Countrie, and to all Christendome.



Right iust is the Lord in all his iudgments, but yet most merciful to such as doe repent, and turne away from their wickednes: and although oft times hee bee severe in his punishments, yet dooth hee long forbear before hee execute his wrath, giving many warnings to all sinners to repent and leaue off their wicked liuing: and dealing with vs even as a loving father doth with his children, first threatening vs for our faultes, and in hope of amendment, forbearing and suffering vs, to see if we will take warning and leaue off our euill doings. But when hee seeth that by no meanes we will be wonne to dread his iudgements, then he taketh his rod of affliction

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in hand, and therewith forgerth the obstinate and rebellious: For although the Psalmist saith in one place, That he is verie mercifull, slow to anger, and abundant in goodnes: It in an other places he saith. The Lord is righteous and iust, and rewardeth all men according to their deeds: So that his mercie and iustice are of equall quantitie, and as hee sheweth mercy to the humble and contrite, so hee executeth his iudgement vppon the froward and vngodly. And yet notwithstanding, although we see & heare daily what tokens hee sendeth vs, as fauourable warnings, and what iudgements hee executeth as terrible threathings: yet wee still goe on carelessly in our former wickednesse, making no more account of all his admonitions, then of a matter nothing appertinent vnto vs.

It is not longe since hee afflicted vs heere in England. First, with pestilence and mortalitie, and now last by death and famine, and euen so long as our punishment continued, so long wee in some sort sought vnto him, but now it hath pleased him againe to send vs our former health and plentie, wee in greater abundance, daily commit more grievous sinnes then before, and by how much more the mercie of God is shewed vnto vs, so much the more doe we continually transgresse, neglecting his seruice, and giuing our selues to all sinfull lustes and voluptuous pleasures, taking pleasure and delight in all the most detestable and abhominable sinnes that are in the world. Young men and women, in pride and whoredome, and old folke, in couetousnesse and gluttonie: But wherfore doe I impute
part

part to young and part to old? For surely although those sinnes bee most rife in these estates, yet both young and old are partakers in them all, and in a great many more, so as I may say that both young and old, great and small, of all ages, and of all conditions: are apt to all manner of deadly sinnes and pernicious vices. And although we haue the glorious Gospell of Iesus Christ, plentifully preached amongst vs, and many thousands of good, faithful, and painefull Pastours and Ministers, to distribute the same amongst vs. Yet there is none of any other Heathen nations, and erronious Religion that are so slacke, in their deuotion as we are, nor so negligent and carelesse in the worship and honor of their false Idols and fained Gods, as we are in dutie and reuerence vnto our true God and heavenly father. This is a grieuous case, and of all things most lamentable, that we being by profession Christians, and bearing the name of Souldiers to so worthie a Captaine as our Saviour is, should make so smal resistance against our enemies the world, the flesh and the diuell, as to let them harbour and remaine amongst vs, executing their malice vpon our wretched soules as they doe. Is it not great shame for vs being of so excellent a profession, to take so little regard and care thereof, and to see them of false and fained, damned, and superstitious opinions, so careful in maintaining their most wicked heresies? Yes surely it is great shame, and greatly to bee feared, that those ignorant Heathen nations, shal in the day of iudgment rise vp against vs, and condemne vs for the small care and regard that we take of the truth.

And

And surely I would wish every Christian soule to take heede: and have more regard of the honour of God then before times hee hath had, least hee in his iust iudgements, bring utter ruine and destruction vpon vs all, as hee hath lately threatned, by these tokens which now I purpose to declare, aduising thee whosoever thou bee, that either readest or hearest the same, not to esteeme lightly of the matter, but to alter thy mind and leaue off thy wickednesse in time, while the Lord will bee found to shew mercie vnto thee. And so briefly to the matter.

Upon the twentieth day of July last past, 1600. A most fearefull iudgement of God, happened in the Cittie of Weersburch by Franckford, where al at one time the Lord sent a mightie Earthquake, and darknesse, with a great and fearefull tempest of Thunder and Lightning, which continued for the space of fīue whole howers in most dreadfull manner, so that all the inhabitants of the Cittie, thought surely the last iudgement day then to haue beene come, the terrible shaking of the earth, caused the people both small and great to forsake their houses, (and finding no place for succor wherein they durst abide) did runne vp and down the streets, weeping and crying in most dolefull manner. Many Churches and stouewalles, with other buildings, fell downe by reason of extreame shaking of the earth, and in their fall, killed and maimed a great number of Christian people, the suddainnesse of this fearefull tempest, put the poore inhabitants in such extreame feare, as no man had any minde of any thing in his house, no, the husband neuer remembred

bred his wife, nor the wife her husband, but were so exceedingly astonished, that they ran by & downe the streetes from place to place, like mad or franticke persons.

The Thunder and lightning, was likewise so terrible, as the lightning ceazing vpon the houses, burned an hundred and twentie of them downe to the ground: and by reason of the peoples feare, there was no man that vsed any kind of meanes to hinder the force of the fire.

The man that had now bene ther, to haue seene the demeanour of these poore fearefull soules, and could without feare and astonishment, haue noted their behauiour: might there haue seene a most lively Map of miserie and misfortune.

During the time of this tempest, another most straunge and dreadfull accident happened in the Cittie. For a man of a most straunge complection, appeared to many people: his hayre on his head seemed to be flames of burning fier, his eyes stood staring in most fearefull and gastly maner: his beard all growne out of order, that by visage hee seemed like a wild man, in his right hand he held a bloudie sword, and in his left hand a rod, from whose branches bloud dropped in abundance, his looke was sterne and reuengfull, and his words full of terrour, which were these.

Thus saith the Lord, your sinnes haue mooued me to wrath, and your transgressions haue prouoked my displeasure, therefore except you speedily repent and leaue off your wickednesse, I will viterly

ly destroy you from the face of the earth, and behold this bloudie Sword, that I hold in my right hand, betokeneth dreadfull warre, which the Lord will bring vppon you speedily, except vnfained repentance. The rod that I haue in my left hand, signifieth the punishment which the Lord will inflict vpon you, because you will not bee warned, and forsake your pride, and such other abhominable sinnes, for as hee hath longe forborne you, still admonishing and exhorting you by his Preachers, to reforme your selues and amend your liues: Somow seeing no other meanes will serue, hee purposeth to take his rod of affliction in hand, and to correct your sinnes most seuerely. And seeing mercie will not preuaile, nor you make no account thereof, hee will now execute his iudgementes vppon you. And hauing vttered these and such like speeches, hee vanished away: at whose departure there was heard such a sorrowfull howling and crying: that the people more affraid of this wonder then of all the tempest before, were now with feare so mightily astonished, as they rather seemed dead men then liuing creatures.

Not long after, it pleased God that the tempest ceased, and the weather brake vp. which comforted the Citizens hearts, but yet this ioy was not perfect with the most part, for there you might see some wayling for the losse of their goods and houses consumed with fire, others making woefull lamentations for their husbands and children, searching amongst the dead bodie which were burnt and
 claine

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slaine, with the fire and fall of the buildings, heere
one crying and wayling of his wounds, gotten in
the time of the tempest, there another sorrowing for
the losse of his friends, in such pittifull manner, as
would haue moued the most stonie hard, and ab-
durate heart to relent, and take compassion: but al
in vaine were these lamentations, for that by them
no man is able to recouer such losses, wherfore ene-
rle one as well as they could, struiuing to comfort
themselues, made this their chiefe st ioy, that it plea-
sed God to stay the tempest, and in some measure to
appease his wrath.

Some two or three daies after: to shew forth
the great ioye that they receiued by the mercye of
God, in sparing them at that time. The Gouvernour
of the Cittie with some other of his friends, tooke
a Waggon, entending for their recreation, to ride to
the next Cittie called Ausburch, being not farre dis-
tant from thence, and as they were in the mid way
in a certaine Wood called Rade, where suddainely
they heard a great noyse and crie of certaine chil-
dren, and looking about could see nothing: vppon
that the Gouvernour sent the Waggoner to see if he
could find the persons, from whome that clamour
proceeded, who went and sought all about, but
could find no bodie, so when he had sought a great
while in vaine, at last he returned againe to the Go-
uernour, telling him that hee had sought in euerie
place neere thereabouts, but could neither see nor
heare any such matter. This aunswere made them
greatly to wonder, for still they heard the crie lowe-

der then before: which encreased their desire so much, as the Gournour had the Waggoner to drive forwards into the wood, to see if they could by any meanes know the reason of this clamour: Not long had they ridden before they came to a crosse way, where fower waies met, where they spied three children, two boyes and one gerle. The Gerle had vpon her head a costly Call, made of the newest and stateliest fashion, that is at this present worne, vpon her lower parts a paire of Breeches, like a man of the newest fashion likewise, both which attires, signified pride, the one in women, the other in men. The Gerle approaching neere vnto the Waggon, spake to the Gournour as followeth.

The extreame pride that raigueth in these daies among Christians, hath so much prouoked the Lords displeasure, that it hath caused him to send vs downe from heauen, to pronounce his iudgements against you all, and to tell you that hee hath promised vnto you to roote you out and destroy you, except you speedily repent, and regard the fauourable and mercifull warnings that hee sendeth you by vs: So hauing vttered such like speeches, shee likewise vanished away in a great flash of Lightning, and was seene no more.

The next approached one of the Boyes, who was clad in Turkes apparel, who threatned dreadfull warre against all Christendome, and that the Turke should according to an auncient Prophecie: come and ouer-runne that Land, and bring his Arme into the Cittie of Culen vppon Rhyne, which is
the

the place from whence the Rhenish wine cometh: and with sword and fire should destroy all those places in which he entered, and this hee said should fall out the next yeare without faile, except speedie repentance. And that their land should be brought to such extremitie through the want of men, that there should not be left in all the Countrie a man to follow the plough, so as all the countrie should bee desolate and unfruitfull.

Then came the other Boye, who holdeth in either of his hands, a peece of their Countrie money called a Reall, and hee said that in certaine time after, the Turke should bee beaten backe againe into Hungarie, and then should bee such plentie, as no man should haue need to borrow of his neighbour, but they should haue Gold and Siluer at will: but there should follow such pestilence & contagion, as the number of the people should be so much diminished, that victuals shall bee so plentie, as for three Stivers (which is in English money some seven pence halfe penie) a man should buy a bushell of wheate, and for halfe so much a bushell of Rie. Bnt a dead maus Coffin should not bee found, although a man would giue for the same a Duckat of Gold, so grienous the plague should be.

When all these speeches were vttered, they made the Gouvernour sweare, to publish the effect of their words in all their Dominions, and to all other nations neere adioyning vnto them, which they tooke their oathes to performe. And so they made letters of Credence, sealed with their Seales

and sent them from Citty to Citty. First to the
 Palsgraue, then from him to the Duke of Brons-
 wicke. and so ouer all the land. This Coppie came
 into England the twelfth day of this present Mo-
 neth of Nouember. 1600.

The names of those Officers to whome this
 Embassage was vttered.

Iasper Vromen, Gouvernour of *Weersburch*, which
 in their language they call the *Sconte*, and *Ia-
 cobus Vos*, Burgomaster,

F f N I S.



